

The Tragedie of Hamlet

Ham. The body is with the King, but the King is not with the body. The King is a thing.

Guy. A thing my Lord.

Ham. Of nothing, bring me to him.

Exeunt.

Enter King, and two or three.

King. I haue sent to seek him, and to find the body,
How dangerous is it that this man goes loose,
Yet must not we put the strong Law on him,
Hee's lou'd of the distracted multitude,
Who like not in their iudgement, but their eyes,
And where tis so, th'offenders scourge is wayed
But neuer the offence: to beare all smooth and euen,
This suddaine sending him away must seem
Deliberate pause, diseases desperate growne,
By desperate applyance are relieu'd
Or not at all.

Enter Rosencrans and all the rest.

King. How now, what hath befallne?

Ros. Where the dead body is bestow'd my Lord
We cannot get from him.

King. But where is he?

Ros. Without my Lord, guarded to know your pleasure.

King. Bring him before vs.

Ros. Hee, bring in the Lord.

They Enter.

King. Now Hamlet, where's Polonius?

Ham. At supper.

King. At supper where?

Ha. Not where he eates, but where he is eaten, a certain conuocation of politick worms are een at him: your worme is your only Emperour for dyet, we eat all creatures else to eat vs, and we eat our selues for maggots, your fat King & your leane Beggar is but variable seruice, two dishes but to one table, that's the end.

King. Alasse, alasse.

Ham. A man may fish with the worme that hath eat of a King,
eat of the fish that hath fed of that worme.

King. What dost thou meane by this?

Ham. Nothing but to shew you how a King may go a progresse

Prince of Denmarke.

gresse through the guttes of a Beggar.

King. Where is Polonius?

Ham. In heauen, send thither to see, if your messenger find him
not there, seeke him i'th other place your selfe, but if indeed you
find him not within this moneth, you shall nose him as you go vp
the staires into the Lobby.

King. Go seek him there.

Ham. A will stay till you come.

King. Hamlet this deed for thine especial safety
Which we doe tender, as we deerly grieue
For that which thou hast done, must send thee hence:
Therefore prepare thy selfe;
The Barke is readie, and the wind at help,
Th'assortians tend, and euery thing is bent
For England.

Ham. For England.

King. I Hamlet.

Ham. Good.

King. So is it if thou knew'st our purposes?

Ham. I see a Cherub that sees them, but come for England:
Farewell deere mother.

King. Thy louing father Hamlet.

Ham. My mother, father and mother is man and wife,
Man and wife is one flesh, so my mother:
Come for England.

Exit.

King. Follow him at foot,
Tempt him with speed abourd,
Delay it not, I'll haue him hence to night.

Away, for euery thing is seald and done
That els leanes on the affaire, pray you make hast,
And England if my loue thou hold'st at ought,
As my great power thereof may giue thee sence,
Since yet thy Cicatrice looks raw and red,
After the Danish Sword, and thy free awe
Paies homage to vs, thou maist not coldly set
Our Soueraigne processe, which imports at full
By letters congruing to that effect
The present death of Hamlet, do it England,
For like the Hedick in my blood he rages,

And